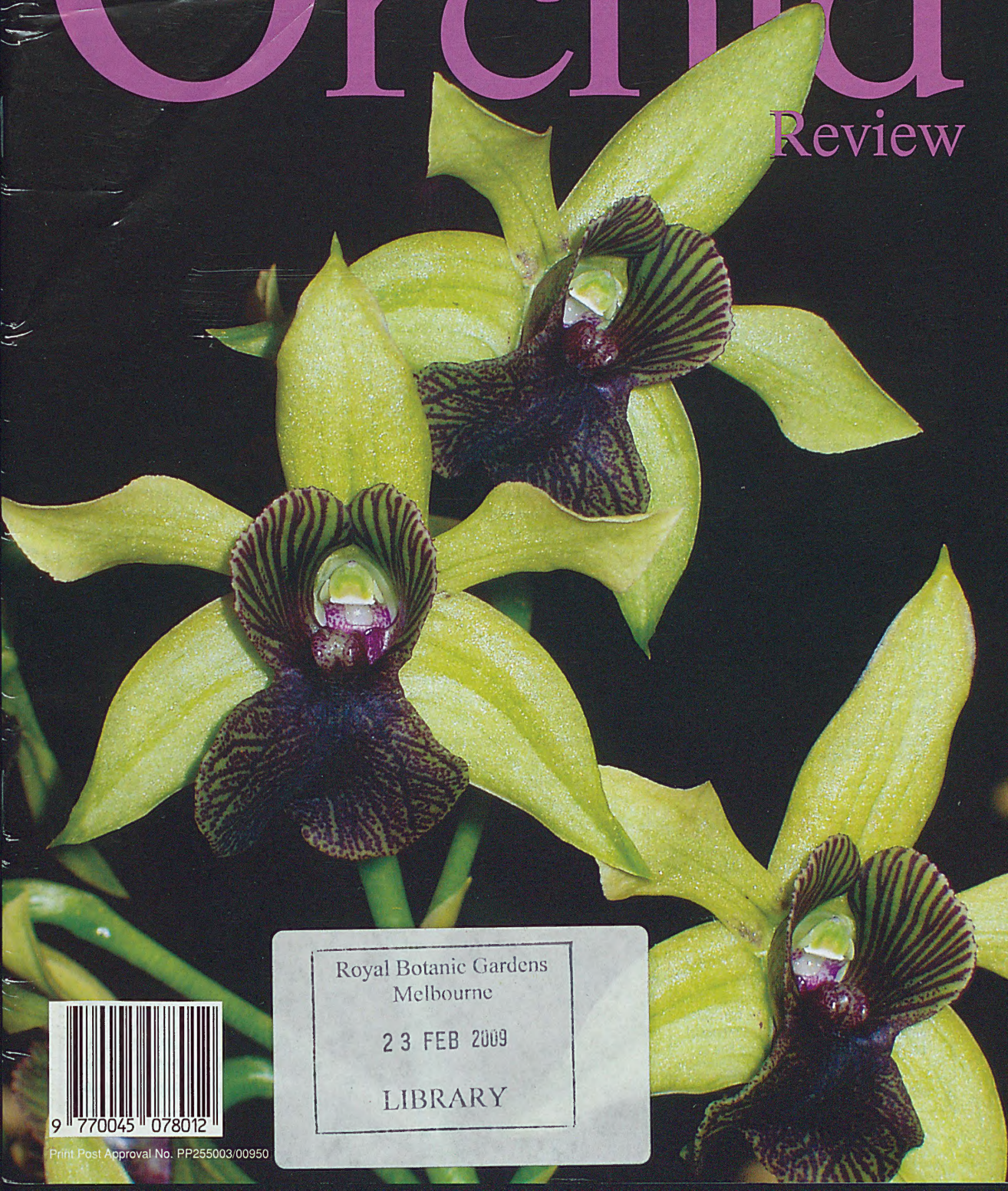


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*** NEW ARRIVAL ***

MASDEVALLIA AND AFFILIATES

Lisa Thoele

The author explains the newly accepted divisions of *Masdevallia* that Carlyle A. Luer outlined in *Icones Pleurothallidarum*, volume 28. It starts with some background information leading up to the dismantling of the genus *Masdevallia* and is followed by a detailed discussion of each of the 20 genera that emerged, including *Masdevallia*.

148 beautiful colour photographs by Lynn O'Shaughnessy (and a few by Ron Parsons and Steven Lubar) to illustrate the genera.

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From the Editor's Desk



The front cover shows an excellent example of the Phil Spence primary hybrid between the New Guinea species *Dendrobium convolutum* and *Dendrobium engae*. Phil named and registered this hybrid in honour of Mr Gerald McCraith AM. Gerald was one of the co-founders of the Australian Orchid Foundation, and was a Director for 32 years, only 'retiring' last year. He has also been heavily active with orchids in Victoria (the Victorian Orchid Club) and Australia (through the AOF and the Australian Orchid Council). Gerald is due to turn 100 on 24 February 2009, and I am sure I speak for everyone in the orchid fraternity who has met Gerald in wishing him the best on this wonderful milestone.

Phil Spence has contributed some very significant and thorough articles for the AOR over the past few years, which have been well received from the readership. In this issue, Phil discusses a wonderful species that he was responsible for bringing into cultivation – *Dendrobium convolutum*, and talks about its place and use in hybridising. You will see from the accompanying photographs the wide range of colours and styles that Phil has developed using this unique and very attractive species. Not one to let grass grow under his feet, Phil has also been instrumental in the formation of a new orchid society – the Mingara Orchid Club, on the central coast of New South Wales.

Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids (www.mtbeenakorchids.com.au) starts a series on *Masdevallia* breeding with this issue. Clive is a most knowledgeable and entertaining lecturer and will be one of the main speakers at this year's Australian Orchid Conference (www.mosorchid.org) being held in Victoria from 8-13 September 2009. Clive's first instalment discusses the breeding of white masdevallias, and shows that by using selective parents it is possible to grow these in a range of climates. Clive has been growing orchids for many decades, both in Australia and previously in the United Kingdom. He has made countless hybrids with some of the cooler growing genera, and has registered numerous new *Masdevallia* hybrids, many that have subsequently been granted awards and won significant prizes at orchid shows and conferences.

Dennis Diehm of Dendi Orchids (www.dendiorchids.com.au) has contributed a pictorial piece on the breeding of "Big Lip" *Phalaenopsis*. This style is still fairly scarce in cultivation, but is an avenue that Dennis is working on at his nursery at Griffith, NSW. Dennis had many of these on display at the 2008 St Ives Orchid Fair.

Speaking of the St Ives Show, John McAuley gives us a rundown on some of the choice plants exhibited at this event, supplemented with excellent photos by Bill Dobson.

Also please note my new email address: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com ■



David Banks
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OUR COVER



Dendrobium Gerald McCraith – see page 4.

Photo: David Banks





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Dendrobium convolutum and its use in hybridising

Text and photos by Phil Spence

Dendrobium convolutum 'Tinonee' photo: D.P. Banks





Dendrobium convolutum 'Black Lip'

It is now many years since the rediscovery of this distinctive species and it is now widely spread throughout the orchid-growing world. I feel it is now time to reflect on its reintroduction to cultivation and its influence in the progenies of the many hybrids that have been made and registered.

When *Dendrobium convolutum* was first flowered, it surprised me to see such a stunning combinations of colours with green sepals and petals contrasted with a glossy, chrome like burnt magenta to almost black labellum. These flowers were well arranged on a thin to wire like inflorescence, the flowers have good substance and texture, with a low perfume. I did not expect the flowers to last a long time but two months was good enough for me! Added to this the plants flowered several times in the year, one almost feels that the plants are in flower all year round so that was defiantly enough for me to start using this unusual colour combination in creating some new hybrids. On the down side for me (but not for growers in the tropics) is this species comes from a warm tropical climate. *D. convolutum* was originally found on the north-eastern coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and I grow it in a heated glasshouse as it requires similar growing

conditions to related species such as *D. macrophyllum*.

It was in the 1960's when I was fortunate to acquire five plants from a village man who collected the seven plants that were rediscovered near Finschafen PNG, and brought them back to Australia. The other two plants were pressed and were prepared for herbarium specimens. I had my own quarantine house in those days so I was able to give these plants a lot of tender loving care, but sad to say fumigation did take its toll and only three plants survived intact, with a fourth plant producing an aerial growth. I still have these four plants today and every few years I self-pollinate or cross-pollinate different clones to insure that there will be more of this species out there for many more years to come.

Some of the original plants that came from the original flasks of seedlings are in nurseries throughout the world and have been line bred to the fifth generation including doubling the chromosomes to tetraploids (4N). H & R Nursery in Hawaii USA, have been pioneering this tetraploid line.

Just after these original plants were released from quarantine I also purchased from Mr Bobby Nevens Nursery in Cairns (North Queensland) a batch of hard cane



Dendrobium convolutum photo: D.P. Banks

Dendrobium Andree Millar 'Best' (*convolutum* x *atrovioleaceum*)



Dendrobium hybrids, one of the seedlings was *D.* (Pale Face x Crystal Cascades) now registered as *D.* Sand Cay. These were very special whites, as they were what is known as clear coloured whites and not albinos, as they also had *D. stratiotes* in their parentage. (Bobby Neven is still alive but the nursery has closed now.)

Let me explain, if you cross an albino flowering plant with a normal coloured flowering plant the dominant colour of the species becomes visual. For example, when crossing *D. bigibbum* "var. *album*" with *D. convolutum* you might expect the progeny to be green with coloured lips, no they will be purple because the white of the *D. bigibbum* becomes recessive and the purple that this species is normally, becomes dominant so the seedlings flower purple. But if you use a clear coloured white *D. bigibbum* 'white' the seedlings will flower a light green with a coloured lip. By using this information and crossing *D.* Sand Cay with *D. convolutum* to produce *D.* Aussie Green, the seedlings flow-



Dendrobium (engae x Andree Millar)

Dendrobium Aussie's Pedlar (Andree Millar x speciosum)

Dendrobium Aussie's Favourit (Andree Millar x falcorostrum)





Dendrobium Green Mist (johnsoniae x convolutum)



Dendrobium (stratiotes x convolutum)



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Above: *Dendrobium* Green Elf (*convolutum* x *alexandrae*)

ered with light green sepals and petals with brown veined labellums.

The second cross was with *D. atrovio-laceum* a species of the same section of *Dendrobium* as *D. convolutum* – Section *Latouria*. This cross was named in honour of Mrs. Andrée Millar for her work establishing the National Capital Botanical Gardens in Port Moresby PNG. These plants are now marketed in the USA as potted plants for indoor decoration. H & R Nursery has converted plants to 4N and then cloned the best of these when flowered for their US market.

Another cross that flowered was *D. Gerald McCraith* (*convolutum* x *engae*) again this was within the Section *Latouria*, producing another consistently stunning



Left: *Dendrobium* (*macrophyllum* x *convolutum*)

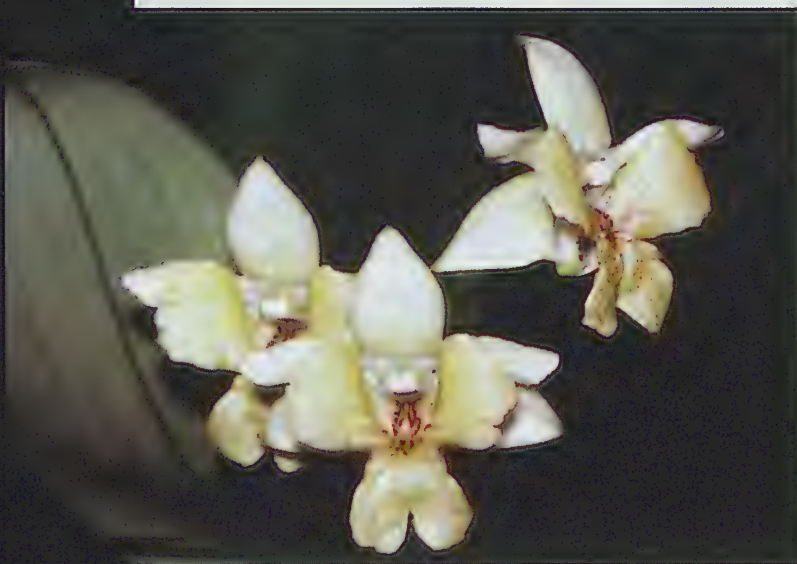


Dendrobium Fantastic World (Andree Millar x jonesii)





Above: *Dendrobium* Gerald McCraith (*convolutum* x *engae*)



Above: *Dendrobium* Aussie's Pixie (*convolutum* x *aberrans*)

Left: *Dendrobium* (Gerald McCraith x *speciosum*)



Above: *Dendrobium Candy Cane* (Aussie Green x Penang Stripe)

Right: *Dendrobium Post Printing* (*convolutum* x *Impact*)

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Above: *Dendrobium* Aussie Green (*convolutum* x Sand Cay)



cross. This was named after the well-known Gerald McCraith of Victoria (now in his 100th year) in honour of his work in establishing the Australian Orchid Foundation and the orchid fraternity in general. Both the above crosses have flowers of similar colour to *D. convolutum* and are free breeding and have produced further generations, sometimes with interesting combinations outside the *Latouria* Section.

As at 2007, the sum of 16 first genera-

Left: *Dendrobium* (*convolutum* x Candy Cane)

Below: *Dendrobium* (Aussie Green x *cruttwellii*)





Dendrobium Shirley Hilton (Aussie Green x *speciosum*)

tion hybrids and 23 second generation hybrids have been registered using *D. convolutum* making a total of 39 crosses. This obviously doesn't include the further number of unregistered hybrids and unflowered seedlings from new and advanced crosses.

A few of the other notable *Dendrobium convolutum* crosses include:

First generation

Dendrobium Green Elf (*convolutum* x *alexanderae*) H&R

Dendrobium Green Mist (*convolutum* x *johnsoniae*) (H&R)

Dendrobium Post Printing (Impact x *convolutum*) (P. Spence)

Dendrobium Aussie's Flash (*convolutum* x *finisterrae*) (P. Spence)

Dendrobium Aussie's Pixie (*aberrans* x *convolutum*) (P. Spence)

Second generation

Dendrobium Dream-Weaver (Andree Millar x Elva Ann) (P. Spence)

Dendrobium Sexy Lady (Aussie's Pixie x *phalaenopsis*) (P. Spence)

Dendrobium (Kenny Green x Hilda Poxon)



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Dendrobium Candy Cane (Penang Stripes x Aussie Green) (S&T O/U)

Dendrobium Green Hew (Aussie Green x *engae*) (W. Upton)

Dendrobium Ovoz's Lava Flow (Aussie Green x *pulchrum* {syn. *polysema*}) (P. Spence)

This last cross was cloned in Hawaii and it was first flowered by Richella Orchids (Richard Mizuta) also in Hawaii. This nursery has now closed.

There are two other *Dendrobium* section *Latouria* species that have also been recently rediscovered that are worth while mentioning as they have also been introduced into my hybridising program. They are *D. biloculare* and *D. euryanthum* with the first batches of seedlings from these species nearing flowering size and like an



Dendrobium (*convolutum* x *lithocola* 'White - red lip')

expectant mother I can't wait to see the results.

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Breeding White Masdevallias

Text and photos by Clive Halls

In all groups of orchids whites are held in high esteem. Masdevallias are no different but the white lines haven't received much attention. In the species we have some lovely white parental material. The inspiration for me was *Masdevallia datura*. When I first saw this spectacular orchid in flower I was awestruck by its exquisite beauty, its true unblemished whiteness, its size, its shape, its flower display and its scent. A little tricky to grow, but worth the effort.

Not much later I saw the magnificent hybrid *M. Bella Donna* (*datura* x *coccinea*), it wasn't white but softest pink. As luck would have it I had both parents in

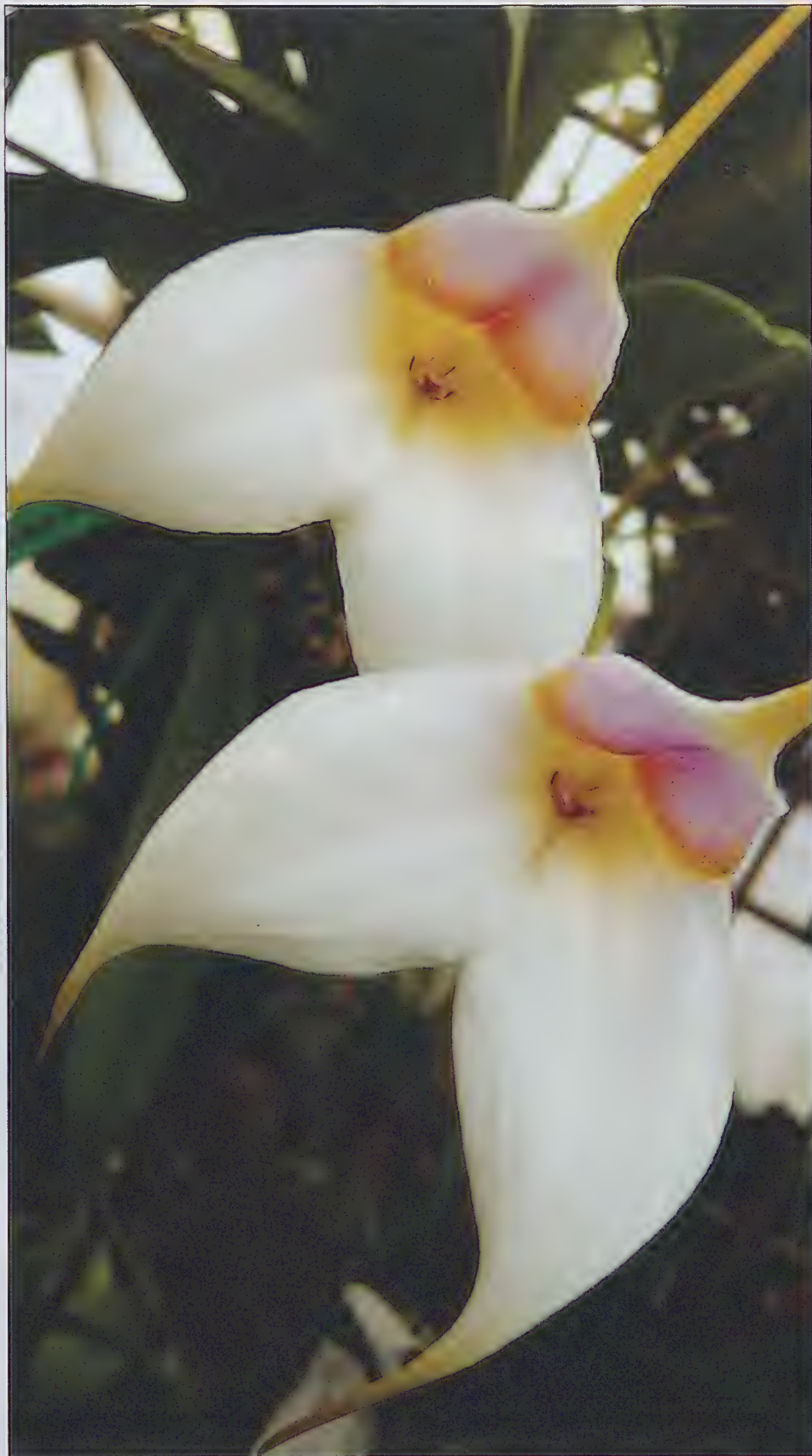
bloom but significantly, I had the white (*alba*) form of *M. coccinea*, not the normal purple form used in the cross I had seen blooming. The white Bella Donnas we bloomed such as the clone 'Prima' came white as snow. The *M. coccinea* genes have strengthened the plant growth and made quite strong growing plants. Flowers are produced in profusion. The next cross in this line was to back cross to *M. datura* to get even more size and the full trumpet shape. The resulting cross, named *M. Mount Feathertop* 'Beenak', achieved an AM/AOC on its first flowering. The flowers were very large and looked like a *M. datura* on steroids!

Whites are often colour dominant so we tried Bella Donna to some oranges and yellows. *M. Copper Wing* 'Sunburst' AM/OSCOV was an obvious choice and the results saw many whites among the oranges, yellows and pinks from the cross. Usually though the pure whiteness had a hint of pink, often in the dorsal, very beautiful, unfortunately we only produced 20 or so seedlings. This cross must be done again.

Hoping to make some large striped whites I crossed my best *M. Partizan*, a wine with deeper stripes, to *M. Bella Donna*. Again we didn't get much seed but the ones we flowered were lovely and as

Left and below: *Masdevallia* Mount Feathertop 'Beenak' AM/AOC





Masdevallia (Bella Donna
x Copper Wing)



Masdevallia datura

expected some pale pinks with stripes but also some fantastic pure whites with deep yellow caudae. The best one was *M. Bridie 'Beenak'*, which received a 79.8 point Highly Commended Certificate (HCC) and judged by OSCOV as '*Masdevallia* of the Year' for 2007. The growth from the Partizan parentage was also strong and attractive.

The *M. constricta* line led to some very nice whites with an extra benefit of some heat tolerance, always useful in Australia.

Masdevallia Bella Donna 'Prima'





Masdevallia coccinea
var. *alba*



Left: *Masdevallia* Bridie
'Beenak' HCC/OSCOV

M. (constricta x Mary Staal) made *M. White Angel*. *M. Mary Staal* has some white background through *M. strobilii* so we expected some clean whites along the way but quite different looking to the *M. datura* line with yellow centres and more traditional shape. The White Angel certainly had quality but didn't flower very productively.

Wanting to maintain shape and size I decided to use *M. Kimballiana* 'Yellow Doll' HCC/AOC, an interesting yellow that carries a pure colour or *alba* gene, so it seemed a good choice to match up with *M. White Angel*. The resulting *M. Memoria Horrie Foster-Johnson* has indeed produced some fabulous pure whites such as the cultivar 'Beenak' AM/OSCOV that won 'Masdevallia of the Year' for 2005.

Most orchid enthusiasts will know *M. towarensis*, a very beautiful and very white orchid, so far we haven't had much luck with breeding but other people have and it deserves some more work. Sequential blooming, deep green glossy leaves, some heat tolerance, fast growth, it's got so much going for it that it must be utilised in future breeding. A fortunate pick up on a



Masdevallia White Angel



Masdevallia tovarensis (photo: D. Banks)

sale bench was a little gem of the as-yet unregistered *M. (tovarensis x lineolata)*, though small, it shows how pretty they can be and the growth is fabulous too.

There are some plants of *M. tovarensis* breeding out and about and you might like to look out for them on the sales benches. *M. Measuresiana (x amabilis)* is a gorgeous miniature we have grown for many years. *M. Hincksiana (x ignea)* a cool grower but very pretty mostly soft oranges, though whites exist so I am told.



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- Sep 5-6.....Speciosum Spectacular - Kempsey
- Sep 10-13.....Australian Springtime Flora Festival - Mt Penang
- Sep 27.....Hills District Orchids Spring Open Day
- Oct 2-4.....Wagga Wagga Regional Orchid Conference & Show
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M. Curlei (x *macrura*) registered in 1896 which reminds us that Masdevallias have been hybridised for many a long year. I recently obtained a plant of this which presumably was a remake and waited in anticipation for a flower. Interesting was about the best you could say of this plant, but potentially a white the size of *M. macrura*, says lets try again.

The final couple of crosses were made more recently; one I knew would be good the other was a surprise packet.

Masdevallia Ada's Delight

M. Frosty Stripes (*datura* x *Antizana*) couldn't miss. The only thing was would stripes come through or not? The answer to that is yes and no, in fact half and half. Nearly all had some hint of colour, no pure whites. The striped ones had pale pink

Masdevallia Frosty Stripes



stripes and the awarded clone 'Beenak' was also striped, but with a green throat to the trumpet shaped flower. First blooming produced 35 flowers and buds in an 80mm squat pot!

The other cross *M. Lemon Ice* is (Heathii x Coconut Ice). A big deep orange on to a pale pink *M. Coconut Ice*. The white dominance has come right through from the (*datura* x *barleana*) which is

Coconut Ice. It was a surprise but a pleasant one and I am sure many more are in the waiting as we develop our white *Masdevallia* line in the future.

Other nurseries and individuals have made many other great white *Masdevallias* and this article does not attempt to explore the directions others have followed. On our great big island we are somewhat cut off from overseas developments, at least in

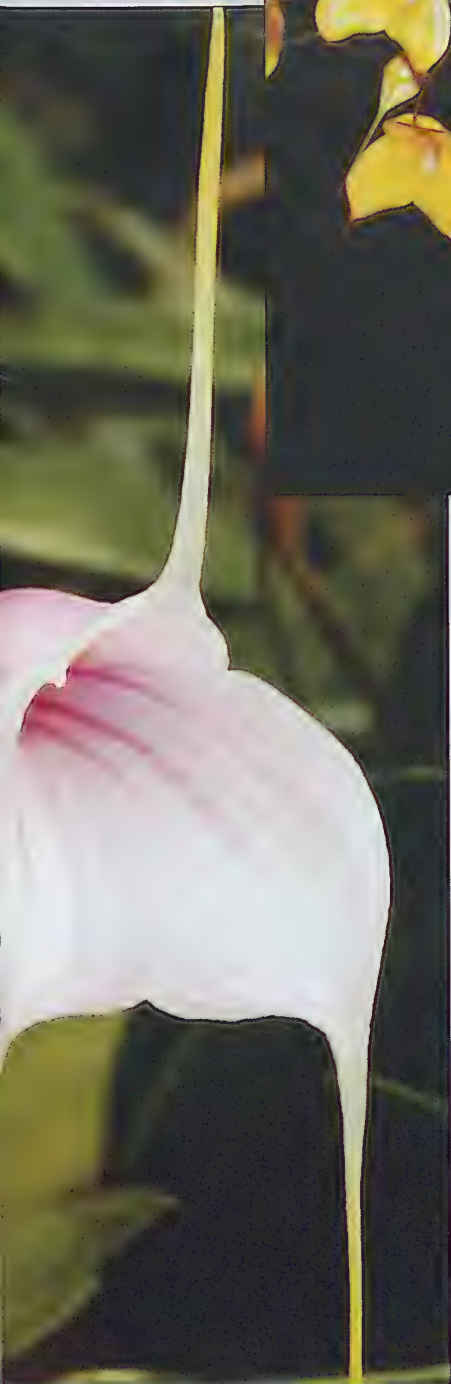
terms of getting plant material. *Masdevallias* don't like quarantine procedures very much so it's a matter of getting on and making our own hybrids.

Where does the future of the white line go next? There is plenty of potential but perhaps introducing some heat tolerance through such species as *M. tonduzii* and *M. mejiana* must be done as soon as possible. The *alba* gene in *M. Kimballiana* must be

Masdevallia Coconut Ice



Masdevallia
Kimballiana 'Yellow
Doll' HCC-AOC



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Top left: *Masdevallia*
(*tovarensis* x *lineolata*)

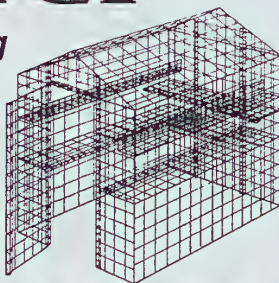
Top right: *Masdevallia* Lemon
Ice 'Beenak' HCC/OSCOV

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further explored if not for any other reason than extending flower life. My own goal is to make whites with fiery red caudae and hopefully spread into the whole lower portion of the flower. We saw hints of this in the lovely *M. Ada's Delight* (Mary Staal x Kimballiana) awarded a few years back in Tasmania and I am convinced the coloured caudae can be further enhanced. I can do it in Photoshop, now to make it in reality.

In future articles we will be looking at other colours particularly reds, stripes and yellows. For more information contact us via our website www.mtbeenakorchids.com.au

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Phalaenopsis – Big Lip Breeding

Text and photos by Dennis Diehm

In the past years the interest and the growth in *Phalaenopsis* varieties has been enormous with the Taiwanese and the Chinese producing most of the worlds demands, these orchids have become the every day household plants with mericlones being produced by the millions in both Taiwan and China. The American market can no longer take what they are producing, so these two countries have taken to dumping their mericlones to the rest of the world and I feel the quality has suffered to the point that we are seeing the same variety of plants everywhere. It will take sometime for the Taiwanese, who I believe are the best in the world at producing such plants, to bring onto the market their newer varieties. However, these will not be seen for sometime as everybody was so busy trying to sell their current mericlone stock that there seemed very little hybridisation going on although I believe that this was only a short term problem and maybe a good thing.

After getting wrongly named orchid plants and plants we didn't order I decided that I would not import from these countries any more and set up our own breeding programs some six years ago. The programs consisted of breeding for harlequins, miniature multifloral and the big lip *Phalaenopsis*, it is the latter that this article will focus on as I believe that collectors

are always looking for something different and I think that we are starting to see some good results from our breeding program in this type of orchid.

It all started with *Phal.* Sasquatch (Registered by G & L Bromley of Sydney) most of the plants were brought up in our nursery with some reasonable results around 30 percent having the larger lip. The cross is *Phal.* World Class 'Big Foot' x *Phal.* *amabilis* 'Neil' – I remade it using what I feel was a much better *amabilis* and the results have been much better with around 56 percent so far having the larger lip.

The next cross I did was *Dtps.* Dendi's Yeti (World Class 'Bigfoot' x *Dtps.* Taisuco Happy Beauty) this by far has seen

the highest percentage of larger lips and is the most consistent of the cross to date. Colour range have mainly been pinks with the odd cream.

The next was *Dtps.* Dendi's Yowie (*Phal.* Sasquatch x *Dtps.* Hsinying Lipstick), I was trying to produce a large to medium white with a large red lip, well I got close, some beautiful whites some with a touch of colour in the lip, the red lip may come in the next generation.

Phal. Dendi's Meh -Teh (*Phal.* World Class 'Bigfoot' x *Phal.* Dendi's Lip) this cross has been a little disappointing very few have had a large lip although there have been reports from some of our cus-



Dtps. Dendi's Yeti



Phal. Meh-Teh



Phal. World Class 'Bigfoot' (*Phal.* High Energy x Carmela's Wild Thing)



Dtps. Dendi's Yowie



Dtps. Dendi's Yeti



Dtps. Dendi's Yowie



Phal. Saaquatch



Phal. Saaquatch

tomers that they have flowered some very good ones.

The next one that we have flowered with interest is *Phal.* World Class 'Bigfoot' x (*Phal.* High Energy x Carmela's Wild Thing), this is showing a lot of potential for high colour with a large lip.

Some of the other crosses we have done are yet to flower and it will be interesting to see if the success will carry over into some of the new progeny.



Phal. Dendi's Yeti



Phal. Dendi's Yeti 'Almost' AD/AOC NSW



Phal. Saaquatch



Phal. Saaquatch



Dtps. Dendi's Yowie



Dtps. Dendi's Yowie



Dtps. Dendi's Yeti



Phal. Dendi's Yeti



Dtps. Dendi's Yowie



Phal. Dendi's Meh-Ten

As yet showing these is relatively new and a lot of judges are not quite sure on how to judge them so don't be disappointed if your big lip doesn't win a prize, because you have something unique and it also happens to be beautiful. Although, we have received an award for one of the *Phal.* Dendi's Yeti 'Almost', an AD, setting a bench mark for future judging of these flowers.

All of the photos that appear are of plants that have flowered for the first time and are one offs – they have not as yet been mericloned.

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St. Ives Orchid Fair and Show 2008

Text John McAuley – photos Bill Dobson



Dendrobium Class 'Mel'
Grand Champion 2008
(Trevor & Pauline Onslow)

For the ninth year in August 2008, the St. Ives Orchid Fair and Show, held in the Northern Sydney suburb of the same name, certainly lived up to its name "The Big One". It has been stated that this is NSW's Premier Orchid Event and arguably one of Australia's.

The Fair and Show goes from strength to strength and record numbers of visitors passed through the doors this year. The show attracted local, interstate and international visitors, including members of the Orchid Society of South East Asia (Singapore) who marvelled and drooled at the magnificent displays of cool growing orchids such as *Cymbidium* hybrids which they are unable to grow in their home environment.

The Fair and Show is organised annually by four Sydney Northern Suburbs Orchid Societies working together, namely: Manly-Warringah O.S., North Shore O.S., Ku-ring-gai O.S. and ANOS Warringah Group. Large displays and table-top displays were put on by several societies, individuals and commercial growers. Despite concerns about plant availability due to this year's extremely cold winter, (apparently coldest August

since 1943), the quality and variety of plants in the displays were as good as ever.

Vendors from NSW and Interstate stocked their stalls with a wide variety of orchids to satisfy both expert and novice collectors, and those just wanting some long lasting potted blooms. Orchid books, potting media, chemicals etc. were readily available as was free advice and potting demonstrations. Seven OSNSW Awards were granted at the show.

Major prize winners for 2008 were

Grand Champion (and Champion Australian Native Hybrid) – *Dendrobium* Class 'Mel', Trevor & Pauline Onslow.

Reserve Champion (and Champion Exotic Species & Champion Specimen) – *Dendrochilum tenellum*, 'Joni-Jane', Moira and John Bennett.

Champion Standard *Cymbidium* – *Cymbidium* Coco Jim 'Starquest', Geoff LeMarne.

Champion Miniature/Intermediate *Cymbidium* – *Cymbidium* Khanebono 'Jacinta', George Serhan.

Champion *Cymbidium* Seedling – *Cymbidium* (Vibrant Bliss x Pharaoh's Star), Tony Maclure.

Champion *Laeliinae* – *Cattleytonia* Dal's Capri 'Nicole', J & S Atwal.

Champion Orchid Hybrid "Other" – *Masdevallia* Tarnie 'Joyce', J & S Atwal.

Champion *Paphiopedilum* hybrid (and Champion Seedling) – *Paphiopedilum* Fanaticum, Geoff & Jean Fulcher.

Champion Australian Species – *Dockrillia tereitfolia*, 'Yatte Yattah', Trish Peterson.

Champion Large Display – North Shore Orchid Society.

Champion Table-Top Display – Dendi Orchids

Champion Art – Photo of *Pterostylis* sp., Bill Dobson.

Champion Floral Art – Gift Box, Lanny Pramana.

John McAuley
Terrey Hills, NSW

Email: jm-orchids@optusnet.com.au

Right: *Cymbidium* (Vibrant Bliss x Pharaoh's Star) (Tony Maclure)

Below: *Dendrobium* Class 'Mel' (bred by David Butler, Green Vista Orchids)





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AOR 041

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AOR 149





COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

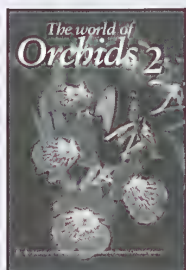
Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few

pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation. Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere. This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

144 pp. Softcover.
242mm x 168mm

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THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS - 2

The World of Orchids - 2 has been written by members and friends of the North Shore Orchid Society about orchids grown in Sydney and its environs, and we are indebted to those people for their time and effort.

It has been produced to cover a large range of genera to help not only the novice, but also the experienced grower in their present fields of interest, and to tempt and encourage them to try other genera.

It should be pointed out that the methods of culture used by the authors are those which they themselves have found successful. Growers should try any changes to their own culture gradually and on a few plants first, as

orchids respond differently under different conditions.

80 pages, colour and B&W.

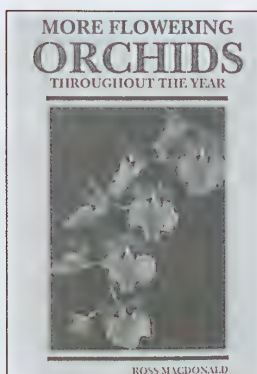
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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommend to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.

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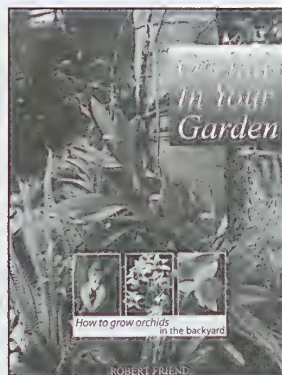


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Robert Friend

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The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are

plants suitable for every garden.

Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

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Colour and B&W.

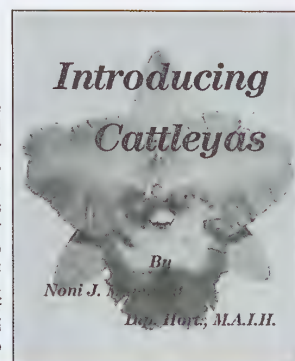
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INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS

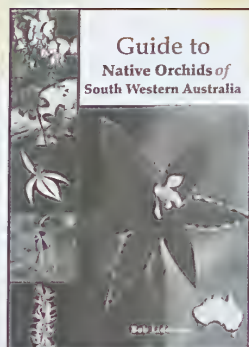
Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shadehouse conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.

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A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Bob Liddelow

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelow has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

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SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

Walter T. Upton

Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus *Sarcochilus*. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

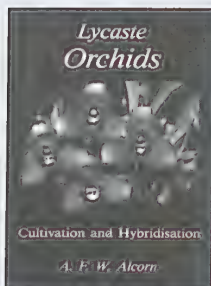
The book gives each individual species a separate entry, with information on its history, synonyms, distribution, habitat, cultivation and hybrids, along with a drawing showing the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including intergenetics, is dealt with in detail – most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*.

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on

how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages
Colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, *Phalaenopsis*.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way *Phalaenopsis* are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

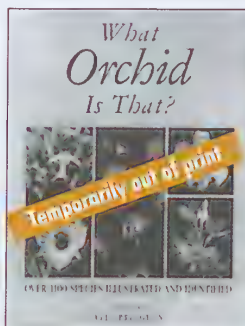
The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

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WHAT ORCHID IS THAT?

Edited by Alec Pridgeon

The orchid is one of the most passionately cultivated flowers world-wide, and for centuries it has been a symbol for the exotic and mysterious in the human imagination. As the brilliant photographs in this book show, the shapes, hues and textures of many of these extraordinary flowers continue to produce a shock of wonder in the viewer.

This book will delight everyone, from the gardener with a casual interest in orchids, to the confirmed enthusiast. It takes in a wide spectrum of orchid genera and more than 1100 species

common in cultivation, presented by an international team of experts.

The first section, by the General Editor, Alec Pridgeon, introduces orchid habitat, distribution, names and classification, hybrids, pollination, how to grow orchids and control pests and diseases, and orchid conservation.

The alphabetical section, "Orchids A-Z", includes descriptions, names and synonyms, geographic distribution, notes on culture, and photographs drawn from collections around the world, showing the best-known species in cultivation.

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Above: *Cattleytonia* 'Dal's Capri' 'Nicole' HCC/AOC-NSW 2008 (J & S Atwal)

Left: *Paphiopedilum* 'Fanaticum' (J & G Fulcher)

Below: *Masdevallia* 'Tarnie' 'Joyce' AM/AOC-NSW 2008 (J & S Atwal)



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AOR 037

Fertilising – Fact or Fiction?

by Bruce Wood

Fertilising is certainly a much discussed topic. We read or are told many things regarding fertilising our orchids. I wonder how much is really fact and how much has evolved over the years?

I believe that most advice is given in good faith. I also believe that advice is passed from orchid grower to orchid grower without anybody questioning the validity of the advice. We are only going to advance our knowledge if we question every thing (including this article) so we can differentiate between fact and fiction.

1. Organic Fertiliser is Better than an Inorganic fertiliser

Orchids access the elements in a fertiliser only when they are dissolved in water and are conveyed, via the root system, into the plant. Inorganic fertilisers are generally dissolved in water before being applied, thus the elements are readily available to the plant.

Organic fertilisers come in two forms, liquid and solid. Liquid fertilisers are dissolved in water and the elements are as readily available as the inorganic elements. In the solid form the elements only become available once it has been broken

down by the action of microbes and bacteria and only then can they be dissolved in water and accessible to the plant. Inorganic fertiliser packaging displays an N:P:K ratio as well as the quantity of any other elements contained within the fertiliser, thus we can easily calculate the desired strength of the fertiliser to be applied.

On checking a range of liquid inorganic fertilisers, only some displayed the ratio of elements available in the fertiliser. Caution should be exercised when using a fertiliser when you do not know what is contained within that fertiliser. The elements available to the plant, from a solid fertiliser, are governed by the rate of bacterial action and it is very difficult to calculate if we are supplying the elements at an optimum rate. In the colder months of the year bacterial action slows considerably resulting in the solid fertiliser retaining water for a longer period of time and reducing the air spaces available in the potting mixture.

The availability of the elements from a slow release fertiliser is temperature dependent with the rate of release being beyond the control of the orchid grower.

Knowing when this type of fertiliser has exhausted its supply of elements presents further difficulties. It should be remembered that the element nitrogen is the same element whether it is supplied in an organic or inorganic form. The same applies to all the other elements.

2. Water Your Plants before Fertilising

The roots of epiphytic orchids are covered with a thick layer of a dead material called velum, which acts as a sponge absorbing any water and nutrient which comes into contact. In their natural habitat, the roots pass this mixture into the plant and then become dry waiting for the next rain event.

Generally we contain the roots of our epiphytic orchids in a pot of medium which retains water/fertiliser for a longer period and we never really allow the roots to become completely dry. The potting mixture, and thus the roots, is generally just damp before we water. If we water today with the view of fertilising tomorrow the roots and the potting mixture will retain a large amount of water thus making it very difficult for the roots to absorb any fertiliser. If we fertilise at a weak rate



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when the potting mix is just damp the plant will gain maximum benefit from fertilising. If we fertilise shortly after watering all we really doing is diluting the fertiliser with the water that is available in the pot. I have not seen any scientific evidence that supports the claim that fertiliser can burn the root system of a plant.

3. Water heavily to remove salt build up.

Who has sufficient water to pour heaps onto the orchid house floor? You certainly do not if you live on the Central Coast of New South Wales with Level 4 water restrictions in force. So why create a problem if it can be so easily avoided? The salts that accumulate in the pot and around the drainage holes are fertiliser that was far in excess of the plants requirements at the time of application. If you fertilise at a rate that is close to the plants requirements and you water more times than you fertilise you can not have a salt build up. Most salts, derived from fertiliser, are acidic by nature so benefit is gained by removing this influence from your pots. So why waste money on fertiliser? Save your water and your plants.

4. Fertilise weekly/weakly

I find this statement very misleading, particularly for the newer growers. It

infers that we should fertilise every Saturday or what ever the chosen day is, ignoring the environmental factors that affect our culture. It may be true in the summer months that we can fertilise very successfully each week. In the cool to cold weather with the lower temperatures, shorter day lengths and weaker sunshine, the period between watering and/or fertilising may be well in excess of one week.

Some of the factors that influence your watering/fertilising regime are:

- Where you live, be it on the coast or high in the mountains.
- The type of housing for your orchids, shade house or cold/heated glass house.
- The orchid genus or genera grown.
- The potting medium used: bark, coconut, sphagnum moss or peat and perlite.
- Pot type, squat, standard or saucer.
- The weather. It may sunny, raining, over cast, windy, as well as the day-time and night time temperatures.

The other problem I see is with the "weakly" advice. "Weakly" is open to interpretation; the rate that one grower considers "weak" another may think it to be "strong". Without any clear definition of the N:P:K ratio of the fertiliser, a rec-

ommended rate of dilution and the rate which is most beneficial to the plants in question, it is very difficult to determine a "weak" rate.

The best advice I can give to the newer growers who are struggling (and we all struggled initially) with their watering/fertilising techniques is it is much safer to determine your watering frequency for the time of the year and the prevailing weather conditions and then tie your fertilising programme to your watering programme. You may choose to water a set number of times then fertilise, maintaining this regime all year round. This way you water/fertilise more in the summer period and less in the winter.

If you fertilise on a weekly basis irrespective of the prevailing conditions you may be creating problems such as salt build up, lowering the pH of your potting mix, as well as over watering your plants. The greatest killer of orchids is over watering.

5. Apply your favourite fertiliser at half the manufacture's recommended rate

It may seem strange to include this statement in this article for, on face value, it does seem like sound advice but if you question it some problems emerge.

We shall compare two commonly used fertilisers. For simplicity sake we will only

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compare the nitrogen levels.

a) Peters Excel CalMag Std - has a nitrogen level of 15. The manufacture's recommended rate for orchids is 1gm/L which gives a value of 150ppm of nitrogen. If we halve this rate we are then supplying our plants 75ppm of nitrogen.

This rate is insufficient for optimum growth in Cymbidiums and nitrogen draw down will probably occur. This application rate is about right for Cattleyas growing in a bark based potting mix but is excessive for plants in sphagnum moss.

b) Aquasol - has a nitrogen ratio of 23. The manufacture's recommended application rate for orchids is 4gms/5L which gives a value of 184ppm of nitrogen. At half the recommended rate we are supplying our orchids at 92ppm of nitrogen.

This rate is approaching the optimum rate for Cymbidiums but I think nitrogen draw down will occur initially. For Cattleyas growing in a bark mix this rate is excessive and less than optimum growth will result. For Cattleyas growing in sphagnum moss this rate will prove a health hazard.

It is very important to understand the nutritional requirements of your chosen genus (knowledge is the orchid growers most important tool) and match your favourite fertiliser at the correct dilution rate, to produce optimum growth rates.

6. I feed my plants

For fun I ask people, who fertilises their plants and who feeds their plants, and what is the difference? The most common answer to the last question is there is no difference. There is a very big difference between the first two questions.

When we fertilise our plants we are artificially supplying the elements which are essential for the plant to perform all the essential functions to maintain life. For example, magnesium is required in the photosynthesis process and calcium forms the structure of the plant much like our bones. Plants feed themselves. They take the carbon from the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the hydrogen from water supplied and in the presence of sunlight produces sugar, starch and glucose. This process is called photosynthesis.

What we are trying to do, with our balanced culture, is to optimise this process. The more plant food a plant produces, the bigger and stronger it will grow. Big strong plants usually produce big strong flowers.

Bruce Wood

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Bulbophyllum pardalotum

by Jim Cootes



Species orchids have always intrigued me. I like their many different growth habits; their different types of foliage; the vast range of colours of both the flowers and in some cases the plant; the multitude of perfumes, whether pleasant or otherwise; it's just their variability that lures me to them.

The genus *Bulbophyllum* in the broad sense has about 2,000 species and among these species are some of the most variable of all orchids. Some species seem to be very stable and show little variation (or perhaps we may just have a limited gene pool of these species in cultivation.) Other species, such as *B. lobbii* and *B. odoratum* are extremely widespread and therefore very variable (or it could be argued that there are a number of species involved within these complexes; a view I find easy to accept.)

When I first got plants of *Bulbophyllum pardalotum* they all flowered orange with red striping and all other clones I saw of this species were similarly coloured. There was no problem with this because this is a delightful species, which is very easy to grow and flower. *Bulbophyllum pardalotum* is endemic to the Philippines and was described in 1995 by Dr. Leslie Garay, Fritz Hamer and Emily Siegerist in *Lindleyana*. The meaning of the specific epithet is "spotted like a leopard" and refers to the floral segments.

The illustrated example is one I photographed from the mountains of central Luzon and grows there as an epiphyte, often in large clumps at elevations of between 800

and 1,400 metres. The flowers are borne singly on short inflorescences and these may appear throughout the year, with higher flower numbers during the warmer months. The individual blooms only open for a few hours each day – and are closed by mid-afternoon, and go through this pattern for about five days before finally withering.

In November 2001, whilst in the mountains of central Luzon, I saw clones (which may be this species) which had white tips to the dorsal and lateral sepals and brown spotting. A few flowers were taken for study and appear to be intermediate between *B. pardalotum* and the closely related *B. elasoglossum*. More information on this group of species will be discussed in a later article.

Cultivation: *Bulbophyllum pardalotum* is a very easy and quite rapid grower in cultivation. I have plants both on mounts of tree fern fibre and in plastic pots with a fine grade bark mix. The plants growing on the mounts appear to do much better. Maybe they just like to dry out more between waterings. The plants are grown in a glasshouse with a winter minimum of 12 degrees Celsius, but would probably take lower winter night-time temperatures. This species appreciates high humidity, constant air movement and a minimum of 50% shade. Regular waterings and applications of fertilisers should have this little orchid gem growing and blooming to perfection.

Jim Cootes

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Australian Natives

February and March can produce all kinds of weather changes and coping with that can be a challenge for orchid growers. We grow our plants in small containers making them totally dependent on us for their well-being, so we need to be able to adapt our growing conditions to suit the plants – and that involves trying to beat nature to a certain degree.

February in temperate Australia can be anything from very hot and dry to very hot and humid along the coast – you know, sticky and steamy with little air movement. There can also be very welcome southerly changes. They produce a sudden chill which can damage some plants as well as sudden and severe thunderstorms which can do a lot more damage, particularly if there is hail. Check there are no tree branches overhanging your collection that are weakened by borers or anything else and get them removed before they are broken in strong winds. After a storm, check your plants for any damage. Repot any that may have been knocked over and had media lost and look for broken pseudobulbs and leaves. Remove the damaged bits remembering that a pseudobulb will continue to produce new growths from its base if that is left intact. Check for damage to the covering of your growing area and repair it or the next storm may do more damage.

March can be hot, but can also see the first frosts in inland areas. Add to this the potential for drought breaking flood rain and it's easy to see why growers have to keep their wits about them.

Hopefully there will be rain to give growers some relief from water restrictions. Try to make the most of it. Remember that sealed houses don't get the benefit of rain and will quickly dry out in the still warm conditions. You will need to be sure to water them even if it does manage to rain. Keep the fans running for these next few months but also check the heaters are ready and working as they may be needed at any time. The autumn flowering natives produce buds now. As many are of tropical origin or have parents that are, they can be sensitive to sudden cold snaps in temperate areas which causes bud drop.

Hot, humid conditions are perfect for creating fungal and bacterial problems. Soft new growths can fill with water and rot off, dam-

aged leaves develop black areas and roots can rot in soggy mix. Plenty of air movement between plants will allow them to dry between wet spells and the best way is to avoid overcrowding – but who wants to have spare bench space when there is room for another native orchid? If things get bad use a fungicide. Just be sure to get the correct one as many are specific as to what they will control.

Repotting should be completed by now as root growth will slow and the plants may not establish themselves in the pot before winter. However, that doesn't mean you ignore any urgent cases. A bit of work now could save the plant. Look for any plants that have not grown well over summer. There should be nice, lush new growths reaching maturity. Some plants might go for a second lot of growths.

Continue with the fertiliser while the plants are still actively growing. A change to a bloom boosting formula is a good idea as it will get the plants ready for spring flowering. Always keep the fertiliser dilute. More won't make the plants grow faster; it will just burn the roots and cause souring of the potting media by creating a salt build up that needs a lot of water to flush out.

When the heat drops it is a good time to deflask seedlings. There will be enough warmth to get them established before winter. Be sure to keep up the water and very dilute fertiliser. You can choose to plant them in community pots or in single seedling pots. This will depend somewhat on the size of the seedlings and the space and protection you can offer them. Seedlings are usually covered in a terrarium like environment to reduce the chances of dehydration after the shock of removal from the flask. They will then produce new growths which need to be hardened to their outdoor growing conditions by gradual removal of the protection. Sarcanthinae simply harden off the existing growths and produce new leaves and roots while dendrobiums produce new pseudobulbs and roots. Community pots save room and the seedlings seem to like to continue to grow in each others company. They have to be watched as strong growing plants can dominate the pot and kill off the weaker ones. Maybe this is what you want to select just the strongest plants. Individual pots are time consuming to set up and need more care to get the plants growing. An advantage is that they don't have their roots disturbed again when they out-

grow the pot.

Many of the terrestrial orchids begin their growth at this time of year with the tiny leaves popping out of the potting mix. Any repotting should have been completed by now.

The natives in bloom or coming into bud now include a large number of species and hybrids with very varied blooms. The well-known *Dendrobium bigibbum* and its hybrids, *D. schneiderae*, *Bulbophyllum exiguum*, *B. schillerianum*, *B. weinthalii*, *Dockrillia bowmanni* and *Liparis* species are just a few of the huge variety of natives that normally bloom at this time. ■

Cattleyas

During the summer period most Cattleyas are in full growth. Warm days and nights certainly push your plants along. New roots are appearing and growths are on the move. If your plants are overgrown you may think about dividing and or repotting into a larger pot. Remember, when repotting catts only use PORT POTS the orchid growers pot! These pots are shallow with plenty of drainage holes. Cattleyas can be repotted in just about any media. I have seen Cattleyas growing very well in a cymbidium mixture. As long as the mix drains well and does not get soggy, Cattleyas will grow quite well. After potting, please stake your plants. That is, most bulbs should be staked and tied top and bottom of the bulb, so as the bulb will not move when you are watering your plants. If dividing this time of the year, it is a good idea to spray your plants with ENVY® to stop water loss from within the plant. A drench with AUXINONE® will help the plants develop a good root system.

DO NOT OVER WATER your newly potted plants. Depending on where you live, you may only need to water weekly.

Plants just potted will not need fertiliser for some weeks. Once you see roots appearing you could fertilise with an organic such as MAJOR CARP® or a new product that has now become available is GROWTH'S LIQUID BLOOD AND BONE. What I have seen so far is that growths seem to have a greener colour with good root development.

Check plants for scale infections. If present spray with ANTI-SCALE® or ECO OIL®. Fungal diseases are not a problem during the summer months. ■

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Cymbidiums

Spikes are starting to appear!! Yes, it won't be long and the season will be with us.

If possible, water in the early evening.

Check for two-spotted mites under leaves. If present, spray with your favourite miticide. If you have a small collection, spray with PEST OIL or ECO OIL. These two oils work very well. BUT do not spray if the weather is above 30 degrees Celsius. You could mix some MANCOZEB with the oil for leaf spot diseases.

If you are experiencing bulb rot on new leaf rot, drench with ANTI-ROT® or AGRIFOS 600. You may need a couple of applications, five to seven days apart. Apply at label rate.

Fertilise weekly with PETERS EXCEL Cal Mag Hi K or PETERS BLOSSOM BOOSTER.

A monthly application of calcium is required for developing racemes. You can use many forms of calcium but I prefer the use of BIO-MIN CALCIUM. Must be used on its own at 0.5 grams per litre of water.

Paphiopedilum

The weather is normally hot and, particularly during February, quite humid. If you haven't taken precautions against mealy bug and scale, keep an eye out. Scale usually only becomes a problem in collections which have been neglected and can usually be traced to host plants, often ferns. Mealy bugs, on the other hand, can appear almost out of the blue and you can have a major infestation before you notice it. Both these pests can be controlled with 'Malascale'; repeat spraying may be necessary.

Care of paphs. during this period of the year consists mainly of routine watering and the regular application of soluble fertiliser as advised previously, still taking care to avoid overwatering. When the nights are hot it is better to water during the evening to induce a temperature drop about nightfall; this will assist promote flowering and, in my experience, help avoid deformed flowers.

Excessively high temperatures should be avoided by whatever means you have at your disposal. In the bush house, shading and simple misting of the plants is all that can practically be done; natural air movement usually avoids problems under these conditions.

Glass houses can present problems with excessive heat during summer, particularly if

they are small. An adequately sized evaporative cooler is a very useful, albeit costly, device for creating good summer growing conditions in the glasshouse. The cooler must be so installed that it draws fresh air from outside – recirculation is useless. Sufficient ventilation should be provided at the top of the house to ensure that the cooler operates without back pressure. A simple thermostat, set at about 28 degrees Celsius, is sufficient control; this may need to be wired through a relay.

In the absence of an evaporative cooler, summer temperature control is best achieved by a combination of ventilation, shading and misting. Whilst shade cloth over, and some distance away from, the glass helps with cooling – and can conveniently be removed during the cooler months – a thin coat of white paint in addition is almost always necessary. A vinyl water base paint, thinned with three or four times its volume of water, is very suitable. Don't use an acrylic paint, it is almost impossible to remove.

Phalaenopsis

Keep the humidity up to your plants. On hot days damp down under benches and pathways. Watering is not the main problem during the summer period – it is the humidity in the growing house. If you can keep it around 70% the plants will be very happy.

Fertilise weekly with a good fertiliser such as MAJOR CARP®. This will promote a good root system and good solid leaves. Make sure the fertiliser goes right through the growing media.

It is a good idea to give your plants a spray with ECO-OIL® to check the control of Mealy Bug. Remember, mealy bug breed down in the growing media. A maintenance spray with MANCOZEB will help control leaf spot during the summer period, or a spray with HYSAN®.

Repot if needed.

Vandaceous

Watering:– Don't allow to dry out. Water thoroughly every day. In very hot dry conditions water in early mornings and mist again late afternoon.

Light:– Strap leaf vandas, ascocendas and other vandaceous genera with wide leaves require 50% to 70% shade although semi-terete

and other narrow leaf types will be okay with 30%.

Fertiliser:– Do not fertilise dry plants. Always water beforehand. Fertilise weekly alternating over a 4 weekly cycle as follows–

Wk.1. – Inorganic low Nitrogen

– Campbells A., Flowfeed HP8.

– or Aqua K.

Wk.2. – Wuxall Folair.

Wk.3. – Inorganic low Nitrogen – as for wk.1.

Wk.4. – Organic – Fish emulsion or Nitrogen.

Pest Control:– Fungicide every six weeks (e.g. Daconil, Wettable Sulphur or Ridomil MZ WP).

Use Diazanone, Malathion or Pyrethrum to control insects.

Orchid Growing Workshop

An Orchid Growing Workshop is being organised by the West Gippsland Orchid Club and will be held on Saturday 18 April, 2009 at the Anglican Church Hall in Drouin, Victoria.

Ray Clement, of Tinonee Orchids, will speak on Australian native orchids and cattleyas. Clive Halls, of Mt Beenak Orchids, speaks on masdevallias, and zygotetalums and their hybrids. Scott Barrie, of Barrita Orchids, will speak on cymbidiums, modern *Sarcochilus* and "varicosum" oncidiums.

The speakers will also have plants for sale which will include some new releases of cymbidiums, sarcochilus, oncidiums, masdevallias and odontoglossums.

The workshop is open to all interested persons with the registration fee to be paid by 2 April. This fee will cover all of the workshop sessions, lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

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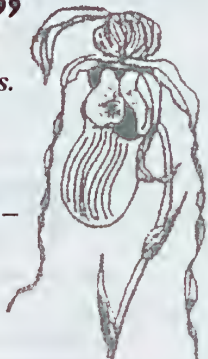
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DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS	CONTACT No.
New South Wales					
27-29 March	Garden Hours	Autumn	Coffs Harbour OS Autumn Show	Botanic Gardens Coffs Harbour	02 6650 9578
2-3 April	9.00am-9.00pm	Autumn	Tweed District OS	Tweed City Shopping Centre	02 6677 9071
4 April	9.00am-3.00pm			Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South	
1-2 May	9.00am-5.00pm	Autumn	Orchid Soc of NSW	Hawkesbury Racecourse	02 9837 2527
3 May	9.00am-4.00pm		Orchids Out West	Racecourse Road, Clarendon	
7-9 May	Shopping Centre Hours	Autumn	Western Suburbs OS Autumn Show	Strathfield Plaza 11 The Boulevard, Strathfield	02 9718 6067
7-8 May	9.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Nambucca Valley OS	Macksville Scout Hall	02 6567 5191
9 May	9.00am-3.00pm		Autumn Show	Partridge Street, Macksville	0429 858 297
7-10 May	Shopping Centre Hours	Autumn	Ballina & Dist OS Autumn Show	Ballina Fair Shopping Centre Ballina	02 6681 3883
28-29 May	9.00am-5.00pm	Autumn	Casino & District OS	Presbyterian Church Hall	02 6663 3366
30 May	9.00am-4.00pm		Beef Week Show	Hicky Street, Casino	
18-21 June	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Orchid Soc of NSW Orchids in Winter	St Ives Shopping Village Mona Vale Road, St Ives	02 9649 2719
25-27 June	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Sutherland Shire OS	Swanes Nursery	02 9521 6209
28 June	9.00am-4.00pm		57th Winter Show	80 Port Hacking Road, Sylvania	
4 July	9.00am-2.00pm	Winter	Southern Riverina OS Winter Show	CWA Hall Wason Street, Milton	02 4441 3553
9-12 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Campbelltown & Dist OS Winter Show	Macarthur Square Campbelltown	
15-18 July	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Fairfield District OS Winter Show	Fairfield Forum Shopping Centre Station Street, Fairfield	0409 299 980
6-9 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Campbelltown & Dist OS Mid-Winter Show	Narellan Town Centre Narellan	
14-15 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club	Twyford Hall	02 6492 0510
16 August	9.00am-1.00pm		Winter Show	Market Street, Merimbula	
20-23 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Western Suburbs OS Winter Show	Ashfield Mall 260A Liverpool Road, Ashfield	02 9718 6067
2-5 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Fairfield District OS Spring Show	Fairfield Forum Shopping Centre Station Street, Fairfield	0409 299 980
3-4 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Nambucca Valley OS	Nambucca Heads Entertainment Centre	02 6567 5191
5 September	9.00am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Ridge Street, Nambucca Heads	0429 858 297
3-5 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Sutherland Shire OS	Swanes Nursery	02 9521 6209
6 September	9.00am-4.00pm		57th Spring Show	80 Port Hacking Road, Sylvania	
5 September	9.00am-2.00pm	Winter	Southern Riverina OS Winter Show	CWA Hall Wason Street, Milton	02 4441 3553
9-12 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Coffs Harbour OS Spring Show	Park Beach Plaza Coffs Harbour	02 6650 9578
10-13 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Ballina & Dist OS Spring Show	Ballina Fair Shopping Centre Ballina	02 6681 3883
10-13 September	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Campbelltown & Dist OS Spring Show	Macarthur Square Campbelltown	
17 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Sapphire Coast Orchid Club	Bega Town Hall	02 6492 0510
18 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Zingel Place, Bega	
18 September	11.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Woodburn OS	Woodburn Memorial Hall	02 6645 4168
19 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Annual Spring Show	Pacific Highway, Woodburn	
20 September	9.00am-3.00pm				
24-25 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Casino & District OS	Presbyterian Church Hall	02 6663 3366
26 September	9.00am-1.00pm		Spring Show	Hicky Street, Casino	
Queensland					
14 February	8.30am-4.00pm	Summer	Aspley Orchid Society	The Auditorium	07 3269 7537
15 February	8.30am-3.30pm	Show	"Valentine's Day"	Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha	
21 February	8.30am-4.30pm	Autumn	Eastern District OS	Wondall Heights State School Assembly Hall	07 3286 4910
22 February	8.30am-3.00pm		Autumn Show	Wondall Road, Manly West	
26-28 March	Shopping Centre Hours	Autumn	Pine Rivers Orchid Society Autumn Show	Deception Bay Shopping Centre Deception Bay	07 5497 5027
28 March	8.30am-4.00pm	Autumn	Redlands Orchid Society Autumn Show	Donald Simpson Centre 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland	07 3824 5931
28 March	8.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Beaudesert District Orc/Foliage	Canungra Community Hall	07 5543 2108
29 March	9.00am-2.00pm		Autumn Show	2 Pine Street, Canungra	
10 April	9.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Bribie Island Orchid Society	Bribie Island State High School	07 3410 1919
11 April	9.00am-2.00pm		Q150 Easter Show	Student Centre	
10-12 April	9.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Queensland Orchid Society Easter Autumn Show	The Auditorium Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha	07 3800 3213
17-18 April	9.00am-5.00pm	Autumn	Townsville Orchid Society	Townsville Orchid Society Hall	07 4773 4208
19 April	9.00am-4.00pm		Autumn Show	Joe Kurwan Park, Charles Street, Kurwan	
18 April	9.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Nambour Orchid Society Autumn Show	Village Green Hall Montville	07 5441 7201
18 April	8.00am-5.00pm	Autumn	Brisbane Orchid Society	Community Hall	07 3841 3330
19 April	8.00am-3.00pm		36th Charity Orchid Show	Mt Gravatt Showgrounds, Logan Rd, Mt Gravatt	
18 April	8.30am-4.00pm	Autumn	Ipswich Orchid Society	Ipswich State High School	07 3201 8307
19 April	8.30am-2.00pm		Autumn Show	1 Hunter Street, Brassall, Ipswich	
7-8 May	Shopping Centre Hours	Autumn	Maroochydhore OS Mothers Day Show	Kawana Shopping World Kawana	07 5479 0562

SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS	
7-9 May	9.00am-9.00pm	Autumn	Gold Coast Orchid Society Pines Autumn Show	Pines Shopping Centre KP McGrath Drive, Elanora, Gold Coast	07 5525 1668
8 May	8.30am-5.00pm	Autumn	Noosa District Orc & Foliage Soc	CWA Hall	07 5449 9629
9 May	8.30am-2.30pm		Mothers Day Show	Maple Street, Cooroy	
8-9 May	8.00am-4.00pm	Autumn	Bundaberg Orchid Society	Bundaberg Civic Centre	07 4152 1937
10 May	8.00am-1.00pm		Annual Autumn Show	Bundaberg	
9 May	8.30am-4.00pm	Autumn	Aspley Orchid Society	Community Hall	07 3269 7537
10 May	8.30am-3.30pm		Mothers Day Orchid Show	Edinburgh Castle Road, Wavell Heights	
10 May	TBA	Autumn	Proserpine Orc & Foliage Plant Mothers Day Fete	Cannonvale State School Cannonvale Beach	07 4945 1643
17-18 July	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Townsville Orchid Society	Townsville Orchid Society Hall	07 4773 4208
19 July	9.00am-4.00pm		Winter Show	Joe McGrath Park, Charles Street, Kurwan	
26 July	Starts 8.30am	Winter	Proserpine Orc & Foliage Plant Local Field Day	Contact Club Secretary	07 4945 1643
8 August	9.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Maroochydhore OS	Millwell Road Community Hall	07 5479 0562
9 August	9.00am-2.00pm		Annual Orchid Show	Millwell Road, Maroochydhore	
27-29 August	Shopping Centre Hours	Winter	Pine Rivers Orchid Society	Deception Bay Shopping Centre	07 5497 5027
			Winter Show	Deception Bay	
28-29 August	9.00am-9.00pm	Winter	Gold Coast Orchid Society	Jupiters Pavilion, Gold Coast Showgrounds	07 5525 1668
30 August	9.00am-5.00pm		Winter Show	Parklands Drive, Southport, Gold Coast	
4 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Nambour Orchid Society	Uniting Church Hall	07 5441 7201
5 September	9.00am-2.30pm		Spring Show	Coronation Avenue, Nambour	
11-13 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Queensland Orchid Society	The Auditorium	07 3800 3213
			Spring Show	Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha	
12 September	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Ipswich Orchid Society	Ipswich State High School	07 3201 8307
13 September	8.30am-2.00pm		Spring Show	1 Hunter Street, Brassall, Ipswich	
17 September	8.30am-5.00pm	Spring	Noosa District Orc & Foliage Soc	RSL Memorial Hall	07 5449 9629
18 September	8.30am-2.30pm		Annual Spring Show	Maple Street, Cooroy	
17-18 September	8.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Maryborough District OS	St Pauls Memorial Hall	07 4121 5811
19 September	8.30am-1.00pm		Annual Spring Show	Adelaide Street, Maryborough	
18 September	8.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Eastern District OS	Wondall Heights State School Assembly Hall	07 3286 4910
19 September	8.30am-3.00pm		Spring Show	Wondall Road, Manly West	

Victoria

23-24 May	TBA	Autumn	Maribyrnong OS Autumn Show	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong	
6 June	9.00am-4.30pm	Winter	Melbourne Eastern OS	Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall	03 9807 6206
7 June	12noon-4.30pm		Winter Show	cnr Burwood Highway & Blackburn Road	
8 June	9.00am-11.30am			East Burwood	
11-12 July	TBA	Winter	Maribyrnong OS Winter Show	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong	
25 July	9.00am	Winter	Maroondah Orchid Society Market Day & Show	Blackburn High School Cnr Springfield & Williams Rd, Blackburn	03 9801 1628
September	TBA		AOC Orchid Conference & Show,	Leisure & Events Centre, Derrimut Werribee	
19 September	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	West Gippsland Orchid Club	Anglican Hall	03 5625 2170
20 September			Spring Show	Princes Way, Drouin	
26 September	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Maroondah Orchid Society	Blackburn High School	03 9801 1628
27 September	9.00am-4.00pm		Market Day & Show	Cnr Springfield & Williams Rd, Blackburn	

South Australia

12 July	11.00am-5.00pm	Winter	Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA	Munno Para Shopping Centre	08 8252 3812
13-15, 17 July	9.00am-5.30pm		Winter Show	600 Main North Road, Smithfield	
16 July	9.00am-9.00pm				
18 July	9.00am-5.00pm				
23 August	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Cymbidium Orchid Club of SA	Westfield Lakes Shopping Centre	08 8235 0340
24-26, 28 August	9.00am-5.30pm		Spring Show	111 West Lakes Boulevard, West Lakes	
27 August	9.00am-9.00pm				
29 August	9.00am-5.00pm				

ACT

19 September	11.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Canberra Orchid Society	St John's Hall	
20 September	12noon-4.30pm		Spring Show	Constitution Avenue, Reid, ACT	

Tasmania

9 October	2.00pm-5.00pm	Spring	Burnie Orchid Society	Bradden Hall	03 6435 2708
10 October	9.00am-5.00pm		Spring Show	Burnie Civic Centre	
11 October	9.00am-4.00pm				

New Zealand

15 February	12 noon-3.00pm	Autumn	Waitakere Orchid Club Ribbon Show	Hobsonville Hall Hobsonville Road, Waitakere	0274 418568
3 May	11.00am-3.00pm	Autumn	NZ Orchid Society Autumn Show	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall New North Road, Mt Albert	+64 9411 9383
17-18 July	10.00am-5.00pm	Winter	NZ Orchid Society	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall	+64 9411 9383
19 July	10.00am-4.00pm		Winter Show	New North Road, Mt Albert	
21 August	1.00pm-4.00pm	Spring	Waitakere Orchid Club	Kelston Community Centre	0274 418568
22-23 August	9.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	Great North Road, Kelston, Waitakere	
18-19 September	10.00am-5.00pm	Spring	NZ Orchid Society	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall	+64 9411 9383
20 September	10.00am-4.00pm		Spring Show	New North Road, Mt Albert	



Cymbidium Australia

PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY INC.

Editor's Report

This edition contains a report and pictures on the entrants and winners in the SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition, the Australian Cymbidium Society's unique competition which brings together many of the best newly flowered cymbidiums benched and shown during the season. This year we will expand the showcase of entered plants to include close up pictures and also pictures of the whole plant, or flowering inflorescence, rather than just a single picture of each entrant. The additional pictures will appear in the next issue. This should provide a clearer picture of the attributes of each plant, something numerous readers have asked for in the past. As always our thanks go to Bob Campbell and SAGE for their ongoing support of the Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition.

David and Carolin Allen have provided a report on the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria's "Glen" Show staged in October, featuring some outstanding flowers despite the lateness of the season.

Due to the pressure for space in this issue we have delayed The Australian Cymbidium Society overview of the 2008 AGM and annual Delegates Meeting, highlighting the major decisions made, new directions taken and plans for future initiatives, judging aims and details of the 2009 and 2010 National Cymbidium Shows in Victoria and Western Australia respectively. That report will appear next issue.

Included in the intended changes discussed by the ACS delegates were some which affect Cymbidiums Australia. It is the ACS's intention to feature pictures and details of all ACS and member cymbidium club awards during the year, with pictures and details of plant and flower. Greater

emphasis will be given to feature articles on growers and their cultural practices as well as selected nurseries and hybridisers. State based editors will be integral to these developments and of course all cymbidium enthusiasts are welcome to contribute and share their views and experiences. Australia has one of the most vibrant and diverse cymbidium scenes with possibly more hybridisers on a per capita basis than anywhere else. Cymbidium clubs in all states have growing member numbers, a rare situation among orchid clubs worldwide. There is much to feel positive and enthusiastic about when it comes to the future of cymbidiums in Australia and much we can all share.

Russell Lynch brings us his thoughts and some interesting observations on the three Australian cymbidium species, *canaliculatum*, *madidum* and *suave*. Russell grows these cymbidiums and various cymbidium hybrids in Alice Springs, yes that's right, Alice Springs! And we think we have problems... Give Russell's letter a read, it is well worth it if you are interested in native cymbidiums.

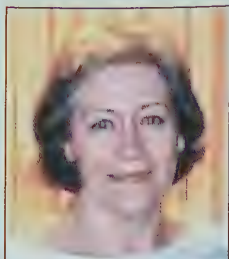
In this issue Graham Morris from Valley Orchids starts a new six part series for those new to cymbidium growing. Graham has run the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia's beginners group for a number of years and over the coming year Graham will cover topics from culture to plant selection and everything in between. If Part 1 is anything to go by this will be an interesting and most informative series.

The Cymbidium Club of Victoria brings us some information on the venue for the 2009 National Cymbidium Show, including a little history of the venue.

Good luck, good health and good growing to all.

Your editors

Editors



Noe Smith

24 William Hunter Court,
Rosebud, Vic 3939

Tel/Fax: (03) 5986 1121

Email:
aussiecym@internode.on.net

Rob Smith



HOW TO JOIN A CYMBIDIUM CLUB IN YOUR STATE

CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December and January)

Auditorium open from 7.00 p.m. —

Beginners' Group commences 7.20 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Burnside Community Centre,
401 Greenhill Road, Tusmore, Adelaide, S.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jeanne Hall,

18 Corolla Avenue, Glenelg North, S.A. 5045

Phone: (08) 8294 5562

President, Ray Brady,

Phone: (08) 8252 3812

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of

each month (except January and February)

Benching of plants commences 7.15 p.m.

Main Meeting commences 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Belmont Sports & Recreation Club,

Abernethy Road, Belmont, W.A.

For further details contact

Secretary, Sallyanne Bushe-Jones,

1105 Campersic Road,

Brigadoon WA 6069

Phone: (08) 9296 6203

President, Courtney Rogasch

Phone: 0407 049 717

THE CYMBIDIUM ORCHID SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of

each month (except January)

Popular Vote commences 7.50 p.m. —

Main Meeting commences 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Mt. Waverley Youth Centre,

Millers Crescent, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.

For further details contact

Secretary, Jennifer Robertson,

54 Worthing Road, Devon Meadows,

Victoria 3977

Phone: (03) 5998 2226

President, Glenda Coutts,

Phone: (03) 9727 4849

CYMBIDIUM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

(The CCA is no longer affiliated with ACS)

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of

each month (except December, January

and February)

Meetings commence 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Lakemba Chapter Remembrance Hall,

220 Lakemba Street, Lakemba, Sydney, N.S.W.

For further details contact

Secretary, Peter Moore,

10 Stephanie Street,

Padstow, N.S.W. 2211

Phone: (02) 9721 0572

President, Geoff LeMarne,

Phone: (02) 9449 9648

Web: www.ccansw.com.au

SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year 2008

Text by R. Smith

Once again 2008 provided a collection of quality seedling cymbidiums for the SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition. The judges had a hard time as usual, this is not an easy competition to judge as by necessity the competition has to be judged from photographs, with the judges having 3 pictures of each entrant to make their assessment from. (Plant and inflorescence, inflorescence and close up of a single flower or small group of flowers.)

As the following pictures will show, the Large Flower category was won by the Victorian entrant, grown and flowered by Terry Poulton. The Small Standard category went to South Australia's Moss and Rosemary Bray. The Intermediate category winner was Victorian, another plant from Terry Poulton. The Miniature was from Western Australia, Kevin Butler's Ezi-Gro Orchids. Western Australia and Kevin Butler/Ezi-Gro Orchids also won the Novelty category.

The overall winner of The SAGE Cymbidium Seedling, 2008 was Terry Poulton with his Large Flower, *Cymbidium* [(Hove x Red Beauty) x Luna Flame].

The Australian Cymbidium Society congratulates Terry Poulton and all category winners and entrants and the various hybridisers of the plants selected for entry into this year's competition.

It must be remembered that the final judging of the SAGE entrants is the end of a long process, beginning with the selection by the member state clubs of seedlings benched and shown throughout the flowering season. This is followed by the state clubs selecting their entrants from photographs of all selected seedlings from the year's candidates to make up their final state entrants in each class. Those entrants are the ones which finally face comparison with the entrants from all states.

The SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year competition is no easy competition to win, not only must a winning entrant select or hybridise a quality plant, but also grow it and display it well enough to attract a judging group's eye when seen in the flesh at a show or on the club benches. It must then be photographed well enough to do the plant and flowers full justice as the majority of the judges making the SAGE selection will not have seen the plant in real life. (Over the years there have been numerous quality plants let down by the standard of the only available photographs.) The judges present must only make their assessment from the pictures in front of them, in fairness to all entrants they cannot guess at what the plant may have looked like in real life, or in a better picture.

As in the past thirteen years prior to this one, the Australian Cymbidium Society and its member state clubs extend our thanks and appreciation to Bob Campbell and SAGE for the ongoing financial support and enthusiasm for this unique competition. 2008 is year fourteen, an outstanding commitment of continuous support by any standard. Bob's involvement and commitment to the Seedling of the Year concept dates back to not only its inception, but to the formation of the ACS itself. Bob Campbell and SAGE have literally been with us since the very beginning and we cannot thank him enough for that initial faith and his ongoing support. ■

The Australian Cymbidium Society
c/- The Secretary,
24 William Hunter Court
Rosebud, Victoria 3939.



SAGE Cymbidium Seedling Of The Year. *Cymbidium* [(Hove x Red Beauty) x Lunar Flame] Owned and grown by Terry Poulton.

Large Flowered Cymbidium

Winner, *Cym.* [(Hove x Red Beauty) x Lunar Flame]

Victoria

Cym. [(Hove x Red Beauty)
x Lunar Flame].
Hybridiser and Owner,
Terry Poulton



South Australia

Cym. (White Valley x Tathra). Hybridiser, T.
Burian. Owner, Elmore & Pam Leske



Western Australia

Cym. Khan Fury 'Rich Man'. Hybridiser, Bryants
'Orchids. Owner, Ezi-Gro Orchids



Small Standard Cymbidium

Winner, *Cym.* (Khan Flame x Valley Splash)

South Australia

Cym. (Khan Flame x Valley Splash).

Hybridiser, M. Bray. Owner, Moss & Rosemary Bray



Victoria

Cym. (Khan Flame x Kimberley Coast).
Hybridiser and Owner, Terry Poulton.



Western Australia

Cym. Flaming Pepper 'Bob' Hybridiser, Bryants
Orchids. Owner, Ezi-Gro Orchids



Intermediate Cymbidium

Winner, *Cym.* (Little Bighorn x Phaoroh)

Victoria

Cym. (Little Bighorn x Phaoroh).

Owner, Terry Poulton



South Australia

Cym. Valley Olympic. Hybridiser, Valley Orchids.

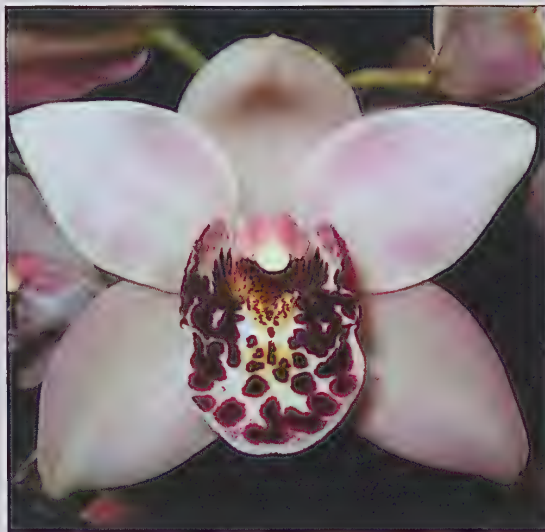
Owner, Moss & Rosemary Bray



Western Australia

Cym. (Anna Szabo x Vogelsang). Hybridiser,

Ezi-Gro Orchids. Owner, Gillian Marsh



Miniature Cymbidium

Winner, *Cym.* (Free Spirit x Vogelsang)

Western Australia

Cym. (Free Spirit x Vogelsang).

Hybridiser & Owner, Ezi-Gro Orchids



South Australia

Cym. (Sarah Jean x Red Nelly). Hybridiser, Valley Orchids. Owner, Graham Morris



Victoria

Cym. (Winifred x Janis Lin).
Hybridiser & Owner, Andy & Jan Leamon



Novelty Cymbidium

Winner, *Cym. Darch Freak* 'Carnival'



Western Australia

Cym. Darch Freak
'Carnival'.

Hybridiser & Owner,
Ezi-Gro Orchids

Victoria

Cym. (Wallacia x Dolly).
Hybridiser & Owner, Andy
& Jan Leamon.



2009 Fleurjin Orchids-Holland National Cymbidium Show 4-6 September, 2009 – Springvale City Hall



The 2009 National Cymbidium Show venue

On a fine day back on the 22nd April 1961 saw the dedication of the New Community City Hall in Springvale. The then mayor Andrew Erickson, together with the then Premier of Victoria, Henry Bolte who was to declare the municipality the City of Springvale, and to open the massive City Hall. The building of this hall had its critics at the time, as this area and a larger area surrounding Springvale was in the boundary of the Dandenong Council.

The City Hall was built for the use of the community, with the main auditorium capable of holding 1,400 dancers, or seating an audience of 1,200, or feeding 700 at a sit-down meal, the City Hall dwarfed any public building around for miles, including the Dandenong Town Hall.

Springvale today has returned to Dandenong with the formation of new council boundaries, it is now part of the Greater City of Dandenong. It is the centre of a large multicultural population with a large Asian community calling Springvale home.

The hall has two main areas with the main large hall hosting the show and the supper hall will house the commercial orchid and club sales area. (Expressions of interest for vendor sales areas and display stands can be down loaded from www.cosv.com.au or by contacting the secretary COSV, Ms. Jenifer Robertson 54 Worthing Rd. Devon Meadows Vic 3977 or phone BH 03 5998 2535 AH 03 5998 2226 or email orchid54@bigpond.com) The venue has good natural lighting which will be supplement by artificial lighting. The venue has several car parks and three entrances will be open for exhibitors to use while they set up their displays. The venue is 5 minutes walk from the main shopping centre of Springvale and 10 minutes from the Monash freeway link. There are a number of different accommodation options, from 3 to 5 star hotels, motels and caravan parks in easy vicinity of the show venue, for people intending to visit this event.

The show will be set up on Thursday the 3rd of September with judging taking place on Friday morning the 4th of September. The show will be opened to the public on the Friday at 2pm to 8.30pm. Then the show will be opened for the weekend on Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 9 am to 4pm. More photos, show information and the show schedule can be found on www.cosv.com.au

Carolyn Allen

Wooten Cres. Langwarrin, Victoria



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Cym. [Red Valley x (Yowie Flame x Sensation)]

The Glen 2008

Text and photographs Carolin Allen

The Glen-Centro show for 2008 was set up on the first day of daylight saving for Victoria we had a perfect day for the set up and judging of this show, the display runs for 7 days in the shopping centre.

As with the show every year members say they have no plants left, as the show is staged in late spring, but we seem to always have a good turn out of plants. The number of plants was down slightly but we had more specimen type plants, easier to use in a mass display for the shopping centre.

One plant in particular had a special trip to the show in a trailer, already stage for the display in a cane basket stand: – (*Cym.* Louie's Pride 'Noel's Joy' owned by N & J. Gard), this plant was later to receive a quality award and two certificates. Noel then had to make the trip back home to collect the rest of the plants he had entered for the show, luckily Noel only lives 10 minutes from the Glen shopping centre.

Because of daylight saving we were able to photograph the major winner in the loading bay before they were taken up to the second level of the shopping centre,

where we build our display.

There were a few newer members exhibiting this year which is good to see from a club prospective. It was also great setting up the stand in day light instead of doing it in the dark, after trading hours, as the centre does not let us use lighting, we only have minimal lights and the light that comes through the glassed roof area.

Congratulations to all the winners:-

Champion Plant of Show
Valley Champion 'Gorgeous' – Andy Tran

Champion Plant by an Intermediate/Novice Grower
Louie's Pride – Winston Tong

Champion Specimen
Valley Champion 'Gorgeous' – Andy Tran

Champion Seedling Shown 1st Time
Red Valley x (Yowie Flame x Sensation)
– Kimberley Orchids

Champion Large Flower Type

Kimberley Valley 'Templestowe' – Andy Tran

Champion Small Standard Type
Valley Champion 'Gorgeous' – Andy Tran

Champion Intermediate Type
Jess Winter 'Kimberley' – Andy and Jan Leamon

Champion Miniature Type
Street Tango 'Desire' – Vinny Dinh.

Plants awarded at the show were:-

Certificate of Excellence for Culture and Certificate of Excellence for Superior Floral Display and a HCC
Louie's Pride 'Noel's Joy' – Noel and Judy Gard

HCC
Street Tango 'Desire' – Vinny Dinh

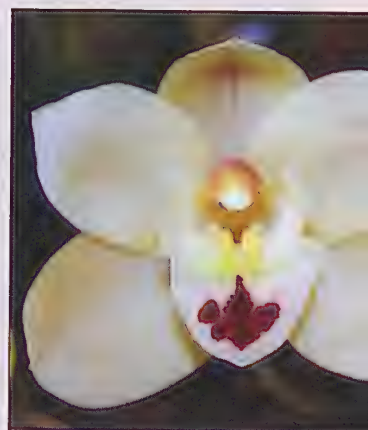
Certificate of Excellence for Culture
Sleeping Nymph x Dolly – John Hedger

Carolin & David Allen
Wooten Cres. Langwarrin, Victoria



Above and left: *Cym. Gwen Thomas*

Below and right: *Cym. Jess Winter 'Kimberley'*



Above and right: *Cym. Louie's Pride 'Noels Joy'*



Cym. Kurralt Park 'Tennyson'





Above and left: *Cym. Street Tango 'Desire'*



Below and left: *Cym. Valley Champion 'Gorgeous'*





Cym. (Wallacia x Mighty Mouse) 'Carol'

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Cym. Sleeping Nymph x Dolly



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ACR 009

Cymbidium Orchids for Beginners – in six easy lessons

Text and Pictures by Graham Morris

For many of us, flowering a good quality cymbidium is easy. For someone new to the orchid scene, it can be extremely difficult and frustrating, perhaps even impossible. We learn how to get good results in many ways. It could be with assistance from a family member or friend. It could be by joining an orchid club, or it could be by researching what an orchid requires, through books, magazines or the internet.

Many people have trouble getting their plants to flower. They also have difficulty in finding where to get sufficient, good information to succeed.

I will discuss the following areas, in this and the following five issues of this magazine.

1. What do you expect to achieve in growing your orchids?
2. Basic growing conditions
3. Terms used in the industry (mericlones, seedlings, species orchids, ploidy etc)
4. How cymbidiums are named
5. How to select your first orchids – miniature, intermediate and standard size flowers
6. How to get the best out of your orchids
7. Preparing plants coming into flower
8. Orchid club shows and what can be learned from attending a good show
9. Improving your collection
10. Preparing for next season – potting on, dividing, culling
11. Pests and diseases
12. Growing for success – watering, fertilising etc
13. Where plants come from – species, hybridising, cloning, diploids, triploids, tetraploids
14. Where to source new plants, varieties to grow, and traps to avoid.
15. The Internet
16. Ethics
17. The future??

I will try to provide the necessary information to succeed at all levels

- for someone just wanting to grow a few plants, in a simple growing environment.
- to become a serious and successful showbench grower.
- to set up a commercial, or semi commercial nursery.

This information comes from many years of conducting the beginner's forum before each monthly meeting of the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia. It also draws on experience gained in presenting special workshops,

teaching newcomers and experienced growers alike, all that they need to know to succeed in all aspects of cymbidium growing. We often have in excess of 80 participants at the workshops, conducted over more than four hours, but often continuing for many hours, after planned completion.

The information is primarily offered for growing in Southern Australia, but can easily be adapted for other growing climates.

I will try to keep the information simple, but comprehensive.

Unfortunately, sometimes experts can disagree about some areas of growing cymbidiums, and practices can change in time, as we learn the best way to succeed. As you learn more, you may be told things which are confusing. Be prepared to ask questions, but also try to seek information from people who you trust, and do not have a vested interest in the outcome.

1. What do you expect to achieve in growing your orchids.

It is wise to consider what you want to achieve from your cymbidiums before getting heavily involved. Many people initially buy the wrong type of plant. Often they buy plants without thinking about what they want to achieve, but also because they do not know what is available and what is required to successfully grow and flower them. Often, they just want to quickly put a collection together thinking that by having lots of plants they will be successful. **Wrong.**

I have seen new growers, acquiring almost anything in flower, often quite cheaply, hoping to be competitive in shows in the near future. Unless they are lucky, they may soon find that the plants they purchased in haste are poor quality, or poor performing, giving them little hope of being competitive. I have also seen people with no interest in showing plants, purchasing showbench type orchids which can be difficult to grow and flower. Both would be better researching the type of plant which might suit their goals before making major commitments.

It is vitally important to consider how involved you want to become in this hobby. Don't get trapped into growing plants which are not what you eventually want to grow. **I make a point to beginner's groups, to grow the plants they like and enjoy (very important).** Don't necessarily grow just showbench type orchids, in the hope of winning prizes at a show. You will have disappointments. Winning on the showbench are plants which best fit a set of judging rules on the day of judging, against other plants shown. To win could mean growing plants which you don't even like. You may change your commitment later, or grow a lot of different types, so plan early about what you want to get out of this hobby, or you may waste a lot of time, effort and money.

2. Basic growing conditions required

In southern Australia, we are extremely fortunate to be able to grow our cymbidi-



Shade house

ums under simple growing conditions. Many growers have success growing them under a tree, or pergola. Whilst this is not regarded as ideal, so long as their plants receive good, filtered light (50 to 70 percent shading) and very regular watering, many will achieve good results. However, others will just manage to grow lots of deep green leaves with no flowers under these conditions. Regular applications of correct strength fertiliser, and good pest and disease prevention may improve results.

Most growers fail to get flowers because their plants are in too much shade (often total shade, or too much shade for long periods of the day). Too little water will also greatly reduce the chance of flowering (they need to be kept moist and humid at all times).

We have some growers who set up elaborate, controlled environment growing houses. These high tech growing environments are expensive, and can give spectacular and superior results, but are out of reach of most ordinary growers.

Growers in cold areas, for example Tasmania, may need extra protection, and possibly even heated conditions to succeed.

In Adelaide (South Australia), Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and similar cli-

matic areas, we can get very satisfactory (even spectacular) results, growing our cymbidiums in a simple shade cloth covered growing house. Many orchid club members, have a shadehouse of less than 25 square metres in area. From a quite small area, a good grower could have hundreds of flowering plants over a flowering season lasting eight or nine months, even more with careful variety selection. An area protected from the elements for plants in flower is beneficial. Many growers bring the plants in flower into their homes.

Positioning of the growing house is very important. Many suburban backyards will experience shading from trees and buildings, in neighbouring properties. Try to locate your growing house in an area which receives full sun for as long as possible over the whole day.

The next most important condition is a source of regular watering. Cymbidiums need to be watered often in the hot months and only as necessary in winter. Autumn and spring watering may only be required every second or third day. The plants need to be kept moist and humid at all times. At our nursery, we generally water most days during summer, two or three times a week in spring and autumn, and only if it does not rain in winter. It is relatively easy to

judge if a plant requires water by picking up the pot. If it is light weight it requires watering. If it is heavy delay the watering until it is lighter. Regularly pick up a plant and get to know how heavy they are when wet and when they are dry.

Most successful growers employ automatic watering systems. They can be simple, single station systems, but if the collection is large a multi station system may be needed. A single station controller can be a small battery powered timer connected to a tap, and feeding a small sprinkler system. These controllers can be purchased at many garden centres and usually cost between twenty five and fifty dollars. They can be easily programmed to water up to eight times per day, for periods between one minute and several hours. They can also be set to water on any day or days of the week. One problem is that the watering times may need changing during the year, or be turned off during rainy periods, which is relatively simple. Care must be taken to ensure the internal battery, does not fail, particularly if you are likely to be away from home for a lengthy period.

If your collection is large, you may require a multi station system. This usually consists of a central controller connected to a number of solenoid valves. A solenoid



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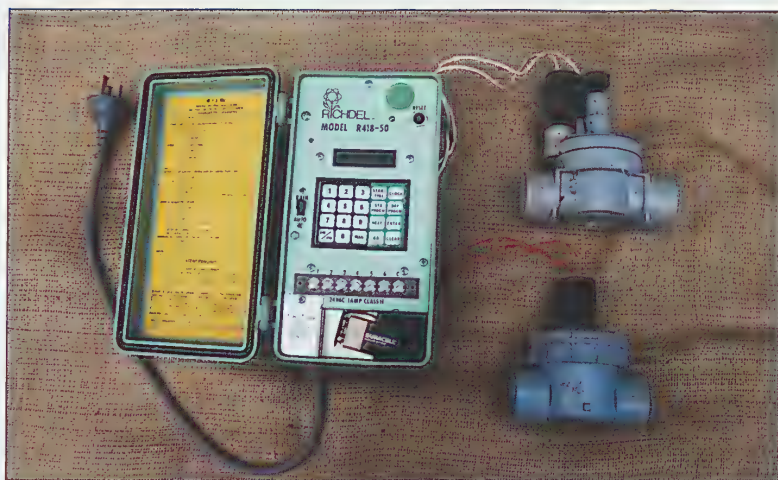
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valve is the equivalent of a tap but is turned on and off electronically. Most solenoid valves are operated by a 24 volt AC electricity supply. This voltage is quite safe, and the wiring can be installed easily by a competent handyman. A good quality solenoid valve costs twenty five to thirty five dollars. The price of a six station controller, depends very much on the brand and the number of functions it provides,



Single station controller



Multi station controller

but expect to pay seventy dollars or more. A fully equipped 6 station controller might cost from two hundred dollars but should be considered an investment in good growing, providing your plants with reliable watering, and allowing you the freedom to be away from home when the plants require watering.

Automatic watering systems can also assist in meeting the timing demands of

water restrictions, in force in many areas.

More information will be included later regarding optimum light and water requirements for your plants. Other important issues will also be discussed in future editions, **but for now, I cannot over emphasise the importance of providing your plants with good light and water. Poor lighting and incorrect watering is undoubtedly the main reason why many cymbidiums do not flower. Get these conditions right to give your plants their best chance.**

Next issue I will discuss the following:

- Terms used in the industry (species orchids, mericlones, seedlings, ploidy etc)
- How cymbidiums are named
- How to select your first orchids – miniature, intermediate & standard size flowers
- How to get the best out of your orchids

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Cymbidiums –

Australian species in The Alice, a letter

I have had experience with *Cym. suave*, largely in the wild and have not tried breeding with it to date though I do have a plant of it which I keep for interest and to possibly test its potential as a breeder.

I feel that the strain of *Cym. suave* selected might be a factor in any breeding program and think that the northern strain may be superior to the typical southern form. I think the northern form offers better flower count, colour, flower shape and spike habit and could produce better results in hybrids than the southern form. The accompanying photograph help to illustrate the qualities of the northern form of *Cym. suave*. Spike habit on more northern Queensland forms I have seen tend to provide longer more arching stems with flowers quite close together and up to 60 or 70 on the spike, flower form is often better.

Observing the three Australian species in the wild across the country from NSW through Queensland, the Northern Territory and down through Western Australia, I have noticed the following about the species and their growth habits.

Cym. suave almost always grows with its roots penetrating within the tree trunk or branch it is growing on, sometimes on the ground if its ariel home has fallen, but these terrestrial sites are always sandy (such as sand dunes) with high light and a shade factor of around 0 to 40%. *Cym. suave* has the greatest root mass of all three natives in relation to the percentage of visible vegetative growth. It can grow in as tropical and wet situations as *Cym. madidum*, but plants can also be found in reasonably hot drier areas as well, such as the drier forests around Townsville.

Possibly the greatest difficulty in sustaining *Cym. suave* in cultivation is the provision of light and air and the maintenance of a good healthy root mass. My specimens are grown in timber boxes that are a minimum of 400mm deep with the most successful specimen growing in a box 700mm deep. I think the root mass of *Cym. suave* is critical as the roots probably fulfil the same function as the bulbs in other species.

Cym. madidum is almost always found growing as an epiphyte, it's roots don't grow particularly long, or seek out hollows, the plants generally grow in the forks of branches and the leaf litter and bark etcetera. *Cym. madidum* prefers good air movement, 30 to 70% shade and reliable rainfall.



Cym. suave 'Mary Walsh' a Northern form.

I feel *Cym. madidum* has little to offer the *Cymbidium* grower compared to the other two species largely due to its very large plant size and its long flower spikes with widely spaced flowers which may be problems when breeding with it and also mean that *Cym. madidum* can take up a lot of space in an orchid house.

I suppose we all have favourites and among the Australian cymbidiums mine is *Cym. canaliculatum*. I feel it has more to offer growers and breeders than the other two species. As mentioned with *Cym. suave* there are different varieties and traits from different areas, but in the case of *Cym. canaliculatum* there are many more variations in plant habit, flower form, spike habit, colour variation and ability to cope with a much broader range of climatic conditions. For these reasons I think *Cym. canaliculatum* has a lot to offer in the

area of hybridising, particularly in terms of tolerance to different climates, if that trait is passed on even in part to its progeny.

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Cym. canaliculatum, depending on its original growing area handles the coldest and hottest areas, the driest and wettest areas and generally handles pot culture better than either of the other two Australian species. It has rapid and prolific growth, short leaf length and usually greater flower counts per stem and can produce up to six spikes per growth, with those spikes being more horizontal to erect and longer than *Cym. suave*, while still having good flower spacing. The flowers are long lasting and there is a great variety of colours and patterns depending on location.

Cym. canaliculatum generally commences growth in an area of bark damage such as where the bark has calloused over the inner dried or dead wood, or where a dead branch connects to the calloused area or another branch or trunk.

I have taken samples from such areas where living plants of *Cym. canaliculatum* were growing on Iron Bark and other native trees and have tested the pH, with the following results recorded.

From Iron Bark, pH of 3.1-3.6. From Box, pH of 3.7-5.6. In the pith of eucalyptus where the roots had penetrated, pH of 4.4-4.7.

I also took samples from the actual plant materials of *Cym. canaliculatum* growing

on Iron Bark trees, mainly old flower spikes and recorded a pH of 4.8 to 5.6. Needless to say a lot more work needs to be done to determine what this means and I will be doing more work next season. I was surprised to find pH levels were more acidic than any recommendations I had read about on the subject.

Initially, the result point to *Cym. canaliculatum*'s wide tolerance of pH levels from a neutral or normal base to very acidic and growth in culture points to its having no difficulty growing in whatever mix a particular grower might be using for other cymbidiums. In nature it grows both inland in the northern states of Australia and in some northern areas down to the coast. In some cases it contends with extreme day time temperature and also night temperatures of zero degrees or below.

I have recently made some crosses with *Cym. canaliculatum*, but have not flowered any of the seedlings as yet. I had built up a reasonable collection of plants from all sorts of areas over time and have been using the ones I felt have the most potential. The plants originally came from various areas of the Northern Territory, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia and to keep track of all of their places of origin I

have named them after relatives or people from their original areas.

The crosses I have made to date have been with a variety of "normal" *Cymbidium* hybrids, (yes these types can be grown in Alice Springs) such as *Cym. Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascades'*, *Cym. Tango 'Velvet Sheen'* and several others, along with an intergenetic crossing using *Grammatophyllum scriptum*.

Given the variety of coloured and spotted forms available, from yellow or green flowers with varying amounts of spotting, to solid colours in shades of red and brown and the almost black/red *Sparksii* forms, along with album forms in green, yellow and white, there is a lot of untried potential in the species.

My hope is that if combined with the right other parents compact growing, floriferous and hardy *Cymbidium* hybrids can be produced which could extend the range of our current *Cymbidium* growing areas.

Russell Lynch
PO Box 1459

Alice Springs, NT 0871

(Editors note - Russell's letter has been edited from the original sent to Noe and contains some additional information resulting from a phone conversation with Russell.)



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2009

February 22 Hills District Orchids Autumn Open Day — Northmead NSW

February 27-28 & March 1 Queensland International Orchid Fair — Bray Park Qld

April 3-5 Sydney International Orchid Fair — Castle Hill Showground NSW

April 10-12 Queensland Orchid Society Easter Show — Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Qld

April 18-19 Collector's Plant Fair — Bilpin, Blue Mountains NSW

May 1-3 Orchids Out West — Clarendon NSW

June 5-8 44th Tropical Queensland Conference & Show — Atherton Qld

June 27-28 Mingara Orchid Fair — Mingara NSW

July 12 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show — Tinonee (near Taree) NSW

July 26 Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day — Northmead NSW

August 14-16 St. Ives Orchid Fair — St. Ives Showground NSW

August 21-23 OSCOV Melbourne Orchid Spectacular — Springers Leisure Center, Keysborough Vic

September 5-6 National Cymbidium Show — Springvale Town Hall, Springvale Vic

September 8-13 18th Australian Orchid Conference & Show — Maribyrnong Vic

September 11-13 Queensland Orchid Society Spring Show — Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, Qld

September 27 Hills District Orchids Spring Open Day — Northmead NSW

October 9-11 Southern Orchid Spectacular — Woollooware (Cronulla) NSW



The Australian terrestrial "Sun Orchids" from the genus *Thelymitra* include some of the bluest flowers in the orchid world. The aptly named *Thelymitra venosa* is a striking two-tone blue on account of the darker venations. This scarce and restricted montane species appears to be endemic to the upper Blue Mountains – west of Sydney, NSW. It grows in moist heathland or in damp narrow sandstone rock crevasses, with the individual blooms only lasting 3 or 4 days. Unfortunately this species is not amenable to cultivation. Photograph taken in situ near Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, December 2008 by David Banks.